

**Gateway Region Urban Sprawl:
Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group**

October 21, 1999

MEETING NOTES

The notes provided below document the main points and meeting progress that were offered during the meeting on October 21, 1999. The notes highlight and summarize the key topics and issues that were discussed at the meeting. Selected attachments are provided in this document.

On October 21, 1999, the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group convened at St. Mary's Hospital, Meeting Room A, in East St. Louis, Illinois. Seven participants were present at this meeting, including two EPA representatives. A list of attendees is provided in Attachment A.

Tim Feather, PMCL, and Andy Anderson, EPA, began the meeting with welcome and introductions. Two current grant applications were also provided by the EPA. Janet Haff, EPA, noted that the EPA would regularly provide grant information to participants as it became available to them.

The meeting goal was as follows:

“Define action items regarding planning to focus the future efforts of the Sustainable Growth Resources Group and monitor the progress of smart growth initiatives and programs.”

Mr. Feather reviewed the meeting agenda (provided in Attachment B). Included in the meeting agenda was a review of the previous meeting on September 16, 1999, a review of information on the Smart Growth Task Force, and presentations by Mr. Ed Weilbacher, Southern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development Council, and Mr. Feather. Mr. Weilbacher was asked to provide the group with information about his organization and possible services available to the group, and Mr. Feather was asked to summarize a recent Livable Communities Conference held in Peoria, IL.

Announcements

Mr. Anderson announced that Noemi Emeric was not present at this meeting because she was attending the Illinois Sustainable Growth Task Force meeting being held in Chicago. He noted also that the EPA had been asked to provide the Task Force with the name of someone who could represent the group as a public member of the Task Force. The Task Force was making a final decision on public membership during this meeting, so it was important for Ms. Emeric to attend.

Mr. Anderson also announced that Mr. Weilbacher had been recommended to the Task Force to represent this group. He stressed, however, that his name was a temporary “placeholder” for this position. Because of the quick turnaround time that was necessary to submit a recommendation, the EPA needed to provide a name rather quickly. Missing the deadline would have resulted in losing the opportunity to have the group represented as a public member. Some expressed concern over these events, stressing that it was not meant to reflect concern for Mr. Weilbacher, only the steps that were taken to deliver the nomination. Mr. Anderson stated that the group would be able to further discuss representation when and if the group was selected to hold a public member seat on the Task Force. Ms. Emeric would know the status of this information by the end of the day (October 21, 1999).

Review of Previous Activities

Tim Feather provided a progress review of the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group, formerly titled the Gateway Region Urban Sprawl Group. Attachment C includes a copy of Mr. Feather’s presentation, and a summary of that presentation is provided below.

The basic charge of this group is on dissemination of information concerning sustainable growth. The group strives to represent all different perspectives of this issue. The agreed upon charge for this group is: The Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group is comprised of local, state, and federal organizations. Its mission is to gather, develop, and disseminate information regarding growth issues in the Metro East, Illinois area.

During some of the earliest meetings of this group, discussion was quite broad. Since then the group has recognized that the main areas to pursue are education efforts, and to closely track the Illinois Smart Growth Task Force. Planning issues are also a central focus for the group. Planning is an important part of growing smart. This group does not have any jurisdiction, but they can begin to develop ideas that would offer smart ideas from a regional perspective. A big aspect of this planning focus is flooding issues as well. For any of these efforts, funding is a big issue. The group needs to be aware of

funding opportunities to support its effort. All these emphases are housed under the Metro East Sustainable Growth umbrella.

Mr. Feather provided the group with a summary of the previous meeting, and invited comments from attendees. Mr. Wobbe, Southwest Illinois Metropolitan Planning Commission (SIMPAC), provided the group with information on his organization. He noted that SIMPAC had been created by state legislation to cover a seven-county region. SIMPAC provides regional planning expertise, with 90% of their business from contractual services. Mr. Wobbe noted that as part of their efforts, some selected mapping had also been conducted. He added that the group should focus on educating leaders about important planning efforts.

One participant noted their impression of Mr. Wobbe's presentation, stating that when an organization like Mr. Wobbe's must focus their efforts on business resulting from contracts, it seemed it would be difficult for them to advise and educate leaders. They further noted that not wanting to offend a client could bias the organization's recommendations.

Another participant noted that the only way to change this would be to change state law and put another group in control. There also is currently no central area of planning, that it is all piecemeal. One group member added that currently there is no government agency one step above SIMPAC that addresses central regional planning. Occasionally, however, SIMPAC may get money to implement a study, but this group member questioned whether they have appropriate funding to always be involved and on top of regional planning issues. Whether or not SIMPAC could take on a newly defined leadership role was another question raised by the group. It was commented that even the East/West Gateway group has difficulty getting into regional level planning.

Mr. Feather continued his presentation by reviewing Representative Ricca Slone's presentation from the previous meeting. Highlights of her presentation included that public members of this year's Task Force had not yet been determined. Rep. Slone encouraged the group to contact the Chairman of the Task Force to request both a seat on the committee as a public member, and to request that a hearing be held in the East St. Louis area.

Smart Growth Task Force Update

Mr. Anderson provided the group with materials regarding the Sustainable Growth Task Force, including correspondence with Senator John Maitland, Chairman of the Sustainable Growth Task Force (Attachment D). Mr. Anderson noted that Rep. Younge must have contacted Sen. Maitland's office soon after the last meeting, because a letter was received from him the next day. The group was asked to submit a representative for the group within one day. After several phone calls and inquiries, Mr. Weilbacher was chosen as a stand-in to represent the group in hopes of obtaining a seat on the Task Force.

Mr. Anderson further pointed out that even if the group was not appointed a seat on the Task Force, a representative could still attend these meetings as part of the audience. This individual would also be able to submit comments to the group, so it was suggested that the group think about who would be available to attend these meetings in this capacity. The next meeting will be November 29 in Springfield, IL. Mr. Anderson also stressed the importance of staying tied in with the happenings of this group. Input from this area is badly needed on this Task Force, in whatever way we the group could offer it. This individual also, Mr. Anderson noted, would be committed to consistent attendance at the meetings and travel.

Several comments were expressed about this information. One participant noted his concern that Mr. Weilbacher may lack some important historical background of the group. Mr. Weilbacher commented that he had not been available for meetings recently, but that he had regularly attended meetings when the group was first formed. Another participant added that whoever represents the group shouldn't be too far from one end of the spectrum or the other. This group was focused to instill sustainable growth in Metro East but to address it from a range of perspectives. Mr. Anderson also noted that at this point, Mr. Weilbacher's name was used as a placeholder, and given the time constraints, they were obligated to make a recommendation to the Task Force. He noted that if the group was offered a seat on the Task Force, the entire group should have a voice on its representative.

Mr. Feather also noted, in reference to a concern about the process by which a representative for the Task Force was chosen by the EPA, that he had faxed out a copy of the letter to the steering committee. He also indicated that the process was very quick and the EPA had to respond in a timely manner in order to be considered for a seat on the Task Force.

Another participant noted that the EPA seemed to have acted quickly as a way just to fill the slot. He also commended the EPA for organizing this effort, stating that in the past these issues were around, but there was never any glue to hold everything together. This effort is pulling area groups with similar interests together. Mr. Weilbacher added that the EPA fulfilled a management role, and that when he was called he was fully aware of the fact that his name was being used as a placeholder.

At this point there were issues raised about the relative intent of the group, and the progress that it has made up to this point. The concern was that the group was not accomplishing as much as perhaps some members had anticipated it would after a year's worth of meetings. Another concern was that some members representing primarily a stormwater interest should be in the stormwater group instead of the sustainable growth group, though it was pointed out that this group will also be dealing with stormwater issues. The concern was about the ultimate results of the group, and what the timeframe would be for meeting these results.

Mr. Anderson noted that a lot of these questions would probably be addressed during this meeting. Regardless of an original charge the group may have had, everyone wants to obtain results that will effectively address the issues of sustainable growth. The group has had a bit of a slow start, but we are now beginning to make some advances, and it will require the concerted efforts of all members of the group to continue to make progress. Another concern was raised about the intentions of EPA to help the group become self-functioning. Mr. Anderson noted that it has always been the intention of the EPA to begin a process that would eventually sustain itself.

EPA has also received commitment from the East/West Gateway group, who also recognizes that they would like to do more in the East St. Louis area. They are receptive to working with the EPA to seek opportunities. When asked if the EPA was funding the East/West Gateway, Mr. Anderson stated that right now they were not. He noted that they had put in a proposal to headquarters for some funding, but that his office has no say in that matter.

Mr. Anderson stressed that the group was gaining momentum, and that a foundation was coming together, but admitted that it hasn't happened very quickly. Mr. Feather also added that the hope was to discuss the group's direction during this meeting, but that before convening within the larger group setting again, the steering committee should identify three or four action areas they would like to pursue. These action areas can then be pursued within the larger group setting, adding more horsepower to meet these goals. However, until the group is fully mobilized, using the smaller group setting would help to identify what deliberate areas would best be pursued. In addition, there have been limited meetings within which the group has been attempting to grapple with regional planning issues that as of yet have not been addressed fully in this state. Considering the group has no jurisdiction, and has been trying to weave a number of issues together, it is making progress. The group now has identity, last month's meeting included State Representatives who are now aware of this effort, and information is being offered to various other groups.

Southern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development Council

Mr. Weilbacher was asked to provide the group with an overview of his agency, and the services that it provides to local regional areas. Mr. Weilbacher is coordinator for the Southern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D). Information on his organization is provided in Attachment E. The RC&D is a non-profit 501C3 corporation. It has 22 members and a board of directors, and covers seven counties. The RC&D was started 10 years ago, and has a unique blend of service. Funding is provided through technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the direction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Authority for the RC&D was created in 1962, to offer services from the USDA to groups wanting to improve their communities' natural resource environment. The RC&D does not service USDA programs or housing loans; in fact, there is very little

USDA input. Authority from the USDA allows the RC&D to work with local councils on planning objectives. They provide services similar to regional planning commissions, however again, they work in a nonprofit capacity with technical assistance.

The Illinois RC&D meets on the third Tuesday of every other month. It runs into problems similar to the Metro East area where people have a hard time being able to put a hand on regional planning issues. RC&D tries to put things together to deal with these issues that are sometimes multi-county. Focus is on a seven-county area, however sometimes there are issues that fall outside regional areas. The RC&D generally does not provide one-on-one services to any one county, though sometimes if capacities are stretched, there may be a significant regional benefit that warrants this type of service.

A big project for the RC&D was the Kaskaskia Stewardship Regional Plan. A wildlife refuge was being proposed within the last remaining strip of land with the largest area of bottom woods in the Kaskaskia River basin. The local landowners were upset and wanted to go to court to fight the Fish and Wildlife Service. RC&D was asked to assist. Small meetings were used to develop a strategy for keeping the resources intact at a regional level. Continuous large forest tracts are very appealing, however as it was, each individual landowner in this area could clear their land and essentially open up the forested area. This can have negative impacts on species in the area. Recognizing how landowners can impact natural resource areas, the Fish and Wildlife Service wanted to try and avoid that early. Their model was to put the land into Federal ownership, which was not agreeable to local landowners.

In this situation, RC&D was asked to act as a facilitator. It held public meetings that attracted 400 people, sent questionnaires to landholders that resulted in response rates of up to 15%, and held 50 onsite interviews. To better understand local issues and concerns, another series of public meetings were held and a compiled draft document for agency and committee review was eventually published. Several of the issues noted in this document have since been implemented.

The RC&D tries to keep an eye out for funding mechanisms on a regional scale, but creating third-party partnerships are important. New partnerships are difficult to maintain, and if it weren't for efforts by agencies such as the EPA, many of these regional partnerships would not survive. RC&D has helped the Metro East Greenway Alliance as well. As a result of a RC&D nomination, the American Bottom Area has received ecosystem partnership designation from the Department of Natural Resources. This is another way that we can help regional areas.

Another RC&D effort, though not of a regional nature on its face, is the East St. Louis Heritage Trail project. The RC&D helped the East St. Louis area obtain USDA-URP designation funds, in addition to others, to install a paved trail. The RC&D has since turned the project over to local city and regional management, and it continues to move forward. As a nonprofit organization, RC&D saw the need for a trail to connect between Broadway and A Street, helped to submit the proposal, and the trail has since been built. The RC&D continues to assist as needed to make even further improvements

to this trail, such as lighting. This is a very local project, yet its impact is regional because it links to the River Front Conference Trail.

On the development side RC&D attempts to look at development from the standpoint of how to use development in a more sustainable manner and in a way that benefits resources. One effort considered was ethanol. The St. Clair Farm Bureau asked the RC&D to complete a study on the feasibility of successfully locating an ethanol plant in the region.

This feasibility document was used as a starting point in negotiating the location and configuration of the plant to southwest Illinois. There was a plant in New Mexico that was considering relocating to this area.

Mr. Weilbacher offered the group a copy of the RC&D's annual report (Attachment E). He noted that the report shows a broad range of program efforts. He indicated that RC&D focuses on trying to find funds for communities. Groups that are not 501C3 cannot apply for funds, limiting their available services. Recently the RC&D helped East St. Louis apply for USDA-URP grant funding for dry hydrants. In rural areas this is very important because of the lack of Fire Departments that are close by. These hydrants are linked directly into the water supply with a permanently mounted head. There is no water in the pipe, but it is under pressure, so when the Fire Department does arrive they hook up their hoses and immediately the water is sucked up, and tankers can be filled quickly to fight fires they couldn't have fought before. This also helps to lower insurance premiums in rural village areas. This effort included training and additional equipment requirements for full operation. Most recently the RC&D has been buying ten dry hydrants a year and just giving them to areas that need them.

One participant asked Mr. Weilbacher what the RC&D's interests were in the Metro East area. He indicated that early urban development was the issue. In addition he noted that the RC&D needs to re-evaluate these goals, though he indicated that it would probably end up with something like a "sprawl" term or something similar, so there is clearly an interest in protecting natural resources and enhancing communities efforts to be more economically viable. This can be accomplished by capitalizing on community strengths. Mr. Weilbacher also noted that he had a personal interest in the area as well.

Livable Communities Conference

Mr. Feather provided the group with an overview of the Livable Communities Conference. His presentation can be found in Attachment C. He noted that there were several "hard hitters" present, including Rep. Ricca Slone and the Lt. Governor of Illinois and Mr. Stuart Meck, Smart Growth director for the American Planning Association. The Mayor of Chattanooga, TN, a smart growth success, was a keynote speaker. Mr. Feather noted that there were several current issues going on in Peoria that received a lot of attention at the conference.

Mr. Feather noted that overall he came away from the conference more informed but skeptical in terms of application of smart growth in Illinois. From his own point of view, there are lots of great ideas, but that until those in leadership positions do something, it is all just talk. This may help define an important role for this group. That is, educate the leaders about sustainable growth issues and strategies in Metro East.

In terms of local coverage at the conference, Metro East seems to get little to no attention. Discussions of Chicago clearly dominated the conference. The Department of Transportation is conducting a series of studies focusing on the impact of roadway development on land use policy, however all of these efforts focus on northern Illinois. This seems to be a real opportunity for this group to get the word out to state level decision-makers that the Metro East area has world-class growth-related flooding problems.

Stormwater Vision

At this point the group adjusted the agenda to address the stormwater vision effort before discussing action items for the planning cornerstone. Mr. Anderson wanted to provide the group with an overview of the stormwater group's efforts for consideration. He noted that the group might want to keep in mind the possibility of doing something similar for sustainable growth. A summary of the information provided by Mr. Anderson is included below.

Three parallel activities have been going on in the stormwater realm. First, the NRCS provided a lot of support to the stormwater group originally, however funding and staff availability have presented limitations. The NRCS recently had drastic funding cuts, and had to close an office and cut back on staff. Second is the Corps interior flood control project. In the past the Corps had been authorized to do a study on the East St. Louis area to see if they could do some flood work in the area based on economic benefit. The problem was that the economic benefits did not come out in favor of providing the work. In the last couple of years Congress has again authorized the Corps to look at the flooding issues, but this time they are authorized to address not only economic but also ecological value of the area (e.g., wetlands). This study will be completed in the next year or so. Originally certain areas of East St. Louis had been taken out of the study, but local pressure has resulted in adding these areas back in. Mr. Anderson then noted that even if they go beyond their project specifications, there is only so much that the Corps can do.

The third item was the involvement of the EPA in sprawl work in the area. After attending Metro East Stormwater Committee meetings and recognizing that little was being accomplished, an idea surfaced to pull together a framework for coordinated stormwater efforts in the Metro East area. The result to date is a stormwater committee

document (included as Attachment F) that has been pulled together by these efforts. The hope is to eventually garner more local support to keep the effort going.

Mr. Anderson noted that this effort was not new information, but instead was a compilation of good information that could be used as a marketing tool. It could be used to educate those who are not aware of the Metro East stormwater problems, and to bring a regional vision to communities and local governments. The document will hopefully enlist the help from others to carry out some of the goals provided, and could be brought to the attention of state and other appropriate levels as a guiding document. It also reflects the hard work that has already been accomplished in the area, though Mr. Anderson noted that this effort has not yet been incorporated into the current document.

Mr. Anderson also noted that the original intent for this vision document was to get agency comments and then public input, however Mr. Anderson felt that since this group had also been involved in these issues for a while that comments from them would be very useful. He noted that the most important element of the document was the framework. Legislation somehow needs to be pushed if this area is to be recognized legally and to be able to do anything about regional stormwater problems. Leaders need to be aware of the quantity and quality of the problems in the area, and the public needs to be involved as well. Without public involvement this document will accomplish little.

Mr. Weilbacher noted that this effort seems to mirror an effort his former agency was involved in, Our Community in Flooding, which was done for Chicago. He agreed that this effort needs to be accomplished so that people can begin to be aware of the problems in the Metro East area. Mr. Anderson also noted that there are a couple of options that are being considered for publishing this document, including funding from the Department of Natural Resources and maybe even funds from EPA. Mr. Weilbacher then noted that this was the kind of funding his agency helped communities to secure, and Mr. Parente added that Madison County also contributes funding for this kind of effort.

Mr. Anderson indicated that this was the status of the stormwater group's efforts, and noted that the sustainable growth group had not yet dealt with stormwater issues because of all the other competing issues that have become important. Participants then discussed funding options, noting that often it is not until a massive outrage ensues, such as after a major flooding event, that legislators take notice to get something done. Mr. Anderson added that this was a primary reason for the group to gain ground now. If and when a major flooding event happens in the area, legislators are going to be looking for a mobilized group to turn to for questions and answers. As one participant noted, however, movement and mobilization of the public, which all agree is a necessary component of these efforts, will be difficult, primarily because of political "upper bluffs-lower bluffs" issues that may instigate an unwillingness to get excited about this issue.

Mr. Anderson then stated that this group should probably again try and address the stormwater issue, to the extent that people can mobilize, the more the groups can be unified with a ready message, the more people will be reached. The hope is to make this

document part of an educational tool that can be given to the public to let them know of the problems, and to show some solutions.

One participant noted that there is currently a great deal of citizen distrust as to selective enforcement. It was noted that citizens see wetlands being added to TIFF district areas, and being converted into racetracks, and the message that wetlands are to remain intact becomes less believable. Mr. Anderson acknowledged that often there are several levels of government doing several things at once, and sometimes one doesn't know what the other is doing. This group needs to be able to mobilize the support of the public, and this type of document may be one way of attempting the effort.

Mr. Feather then interjected a question to the group. He noted that the group had a draft document effort in front of them. Given what the document is intended to do, he asked the group if this type of effort would be a good thing for the sustainable growth group. Participants essentially agreed that the document was a positive effort, though some participants noted that until they read the document they would not be able to say explicitly whether it was good for this group or not. Another participant reiterated these comments, and added that there was still an issue of getting people to come to consensus. A document such as this, coming from such a small, unknown group, even if there is agreement, then what? What is really needed is a comprehensive plan that is addressed with the authority necessary to get something accomplished.

Another participant noted their approval of the draft document, and also indicated that the short, easy to understand format was most appealing. It allows people to have a good understanding of what is going on, without getting so detailed that they lose interest.

Mr. Anderson encouraged the group to attend the stormwater technical meetings if there was more interest. The meetings are held every first Wednesday of each month, with the next meeting to be November 3, 1999.

Discussion of overlap between the stormwater group efforts and the sustainable group efforts were then discussed. Mr. Feather noted that this group is more of a general sustainable growth group, but that stormwater was one of the top issues. If this group were to adopt a vision similar to that created by the stormwater group, then a certain amount of leverage could be obtained from that. This vision could then be presented to local groups, leadership, and others, to help garner support. These are the kinds of ideas and strategies that the group could help come up with.

Mr. Anderson also suggested the possibility of incorporating these types of stormwater issues into a similar document designed by this group. This would allow for a comprehensive effort that the group could go out to the public with. He also noted that he brought this document for the group to review as a way of gaining ideas as to action plans. One thing is certain, however, and that is that the group needs to have a marketing tool so that the public can easily and effectively see the problems that are going on in the area. As far as a regional plan, this is something that the EPA has been interested in

doing as well, however the EPA can only do so much because they are not a planning agency. Something like this, however, would allow the group to show their views in a more detailed manner.

One participant also noted that the stormwater document has been the result of years of effort. Sustainable growth issues have not received nearly this much emphasis or effort, and just trying to pin down exactly what growth is and how it is measured will require some effort. In addition there is currently no regional entity that offers some kind of benchmarks or guiding principles that the group could evaluate. There is just no regional approach available.

Planning Cornerstone Discussion

Mr. Feather then asked the group what kind of plan might be useful. One participant noted that he had envisioned a comprehensive land use plan that takes watershed areas into consideration. Even if it is not binding, there should be some kind of regional plan. Another participant noted that this would help put pressure on municipalities if it included some science and other thought processes.

Mr. Feather then asked what the geographic scope might be. St. Clair county, Madison and Monroe counties? And are there basic mappings of these counties? Do we know land use or land cover? If the group wants to provide a land use plan and a comprehensive plan, where does this information exist?

Participants noted that some counties have plans that have been published, but it was not certain if all have included future land use. Another participant raised the issue of how local officials are bound to these planning efforts. They indicated that something might need to be done at the state level so communities were required to stick to their original plans.

Another participant noted that if counties did have plans related to growth issues, it may be possible for the group to consider an effort that would “grade” these plans. How they would be measured is unclear, but it may be a worthwhile effort if good benchmarks or parameters could be identified. It was also noted, however, that even this effort would require a document indicating “best practices” or something, before a grading effort would be effective. The suggestion was made that highly effective smart growth plans, such as those mentioned by Rep. Slone during the previous meeting, be looked at before the next meeting so the group could discuss what they liked or disliked about them. It would be very beneficial if we could work out some principles, not necessarily a comprehensive plan but a guiding tool for municipalities.

According to one participant, a format such as the framework designed by the stormwater group would be a good starting point for this group’s efforts. This document could be used as a conduit to bring the larger group together. Ms. Haff noted that the

group should keep in mind that everyone at this meeting today would not be able to develop a comprehensive plan, but a framework could include the need for a comprehensive plan as one of the principle elements of good planning. A pamphlet or something similar, could be used as a marketing tool, suggesting areas that the group feels are good practices to uphold. It wouldn't have the detail of the stormwater group's document, but it could compile other plans, and knowledge bases that could be drawn from.

The issue of citizen participation was then raised by one participant. It was noted that the Stormwater Planning Commission had no citizen representation, something that seems a necessity in order to get citizens on board. Mr. Anderson noted that the stormwater group would agree with that, and that this group should encompass stormwater issues to make the effort as holistic as possible. He additionally noted that the EPA recognizes ineffective public involvement will thwart efforts of success.

Mr. Feather then added that if a comprehensive plan is an important principle for this group, a regional comprehensive plan used to make decisions could be something that is a mission of the group. In that light, Mr. Feather asked if any participant could provide a mapped version of comprehensive plans for the three counties. Two participants noted that they would be able to provide some of this information. Mr. Feather added that if this information were available, it would be interesting for the group to know what these areas are thinking about their future. If the group finds out later that a best practice is to ensure 25% greenspace, for example, this could be overlaid with hydrology for stormwater to see how they mesh. The group needs to be able to start looking at these things and point to areas where problems may be arising. From here the group can begin to think about guidelines from other areas so that future assessments may be possible.

Mr. Anderson added that pulling these three ideas together might be very effective. The group needs to begin getting recognized, so it may opt to have its name on paper, including facts about the group, etc. In addition, the group has talked about developing a framework similar to that designed by the stormwater group. GIS maps would also be a good idea to bring it all together. These projects would definitely be good, low budget efforts that the group could tackle. We could probably even produce these within three months or so. Ms. Haff will also be a good resource in trying to find funding, which is also another reason for the group to consolidate. Once consolidated, the group can begin to apply for grants. The only loose end seems to be getting hold of some of these study plans. Ms. Haff noted that she would assist in this effort, and Ms. Andria indicated that she could help gather this type of information as well.

The bottom line, according to one participant, is that in order for this group to accomplish anything, it needs to stay on top of the Illinois Smart Growth Task Force. Hopefully this group will be able to come up with something positive. Part of this group's platform should be to push for these positive results.

Meeting Closure

Mr. Feather noted that the next meeting would include education as a focus. Ms. Haff added that after today, this focus will be rearranged somewhat, but that a few of the ideas will include obtaining funding. The two grants passed out earlier in the meeting included deadlines of October 31, 1999 for the education grant, and November 22, 1999, for the EPA 25% matching grant. Ms. Haff noted that she will try and keep on top of funding possibilities and will bring them to the table regularly. Eventually, when the group is more mobilized it will be able to organize these efforts on its own.

The group was also asked to consider what kind of ideas they would like to see during the education discussions, and what direction it should take. Grant writing, brown field workshops, internet training community organization, and leadership training are some of the topics that are already on the agenda. Ms. Haff asked that if anyone had further ideas, or an idea of how to incorporate these topics, to call and let them know.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Feather then reiterated that the goal of this effort is to eventually empower the group to become self-sufficient, and to hand the reins over the local representation. One participant noted a final request that the group be updated on what was happening in the area from an EPA and Gateway Initiatives perspective, and to exchange information on what other things are going on in the area. Ms. Haff agreed that this would be a worthwhile effort and that a "Gateway Update" could easily be added to the agenda.

The next meeting was then set for Wednesday, December 1, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm in Conference Room A, St. Mary's Hospital, East St. Louis.

ATTACHMENT A

LIST OF ATTENDEES

GATEWAY URBAN SPRAWL PARTICIPANT LIST

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ATTACHMENT B

AGENDA

Draft Meeting Agenda

Gateway Region Urban Sprawl – Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group

October 21, 1999 – 8:00 to 12:00 am

St. Mary's Hospital Conference Room A-- East St. Louis, Illinois

Meeting Goal

Define action items regarding planning to focus the future efforts of the Sustainable Growth Resources Group and monitor the progress of smart growth initiatives and programs.

ACTIVITY

LEAD PLAYERS

Welcome and Announcements

Tim Feather, PMCL
Andy Anderson, EPA

Introductions

All

Review of Last Meeting

Tim Feather, PMCL

Smart Growth Task Force

Andy Anderson, EPA

Southern Illinois Resource Conservation
And Development Council

Ed Weilbacher, SIRCDC

Livable Communities Conference: Summary

Tim Feather

Planning Cornerstone: Action Items

All

Stormwater Vision

Andy Anderson

Next Steps

Tim Feather
Janet Haff, EPA
All

Meeting Closure

Tim Feather
Andy Anderson

Group Charge: The Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group is comprised of local, state, and federal organizations. Its mission is to gather, develop, and disseminate information regarding growth issues in the Metro East, Illinois area.

ATTACHMENT C

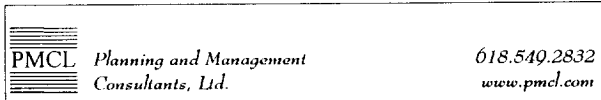
METRO EAST SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RESOURCES GROUP

Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group

Steering Committee Meeting

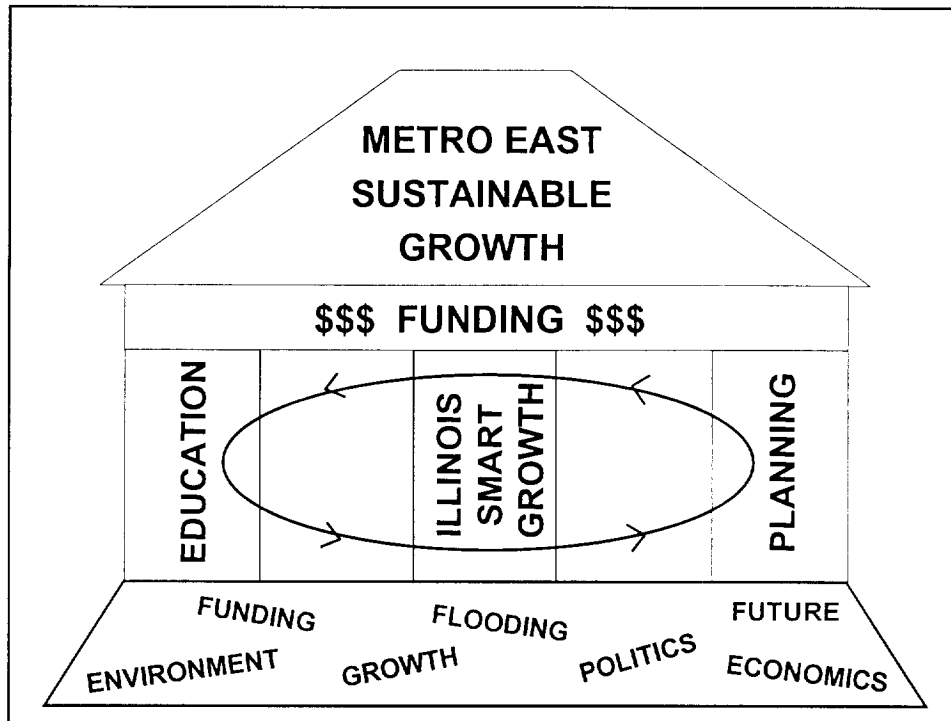
October 21, 1999

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region V)



Metro East Sustainable Resources Group

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Review of Last Meeting

Workshop Goal:

Establish an understanding of the Illinois Smart Growth Initiative and related programs and initiate an appropriate strategy that takes advantage of these programs for the Metro East region.

- 15 attendees: steering committee and observers
- Including Illinois Representatives Younge and Slone

Review of Last Meeting

SIMPAC Presentation

- Created by state legislature - 7-county region
- 90% of business from contract services
- Selected mapping has been conducted, e.g. Edwardsville
- Advised group to educate leaders

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Review of Last Meeting

Rep. Ricca Slone Presentation

- History of Illinois Smart Growth initiatives
- Cited Oregon, Maryland, Tennessee, New Jersey, and Georgia for prominent Smart Growth efforts
- Joint Task Force recently organized - chaired by Senator Maitland

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Review of Last Meeting

Rep. Ricca Slone Presentation (continued)

- Metro East St. Louis presently not represented on the task force
- Encouraged group to promote a Metro East location hearing

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Livable Communities Conference: Summary/Reaction

- Held September 30th in Peoria
- About 100 attendees - prominent key note speakers and interesting technical sessions
- Rich in ideas, guidelines and rhetoric
- Techniques plentiful....but require leadership
- Metro East very much overshadowed by Chicago

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